

MINUTES OF THE
JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 23, 2008
Room W125, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex

Members Present: Sen. Allen Christensen, Committee Co-Chair
Rep. Merlynn Newbold, Committee Co-Chair
Sen. Chris Buttars
Sen. Peter Knudson
Sen. Ross Romero
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Roz McGee
Rep. Paul Neuenschwander
Rep. Paul Ray
Rep. Richard Greenwood

Member Absent: Rep. Steve Urquhart

Staff Present: Debbie Headden, Fiscal Analyst
Russell Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst
Joan Tiffany, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Lisa Michele Church, Executive Director, Human Services, DHS
Duane Betournay, Director, Child & Family Services
Jack Green, Finance Director, Child & Family Services
Bonnie Peters, Executive Director, Family Support Center
Sharon Anderson, Family Support Center
Anne Burkholder, CEO, YMCA
Ken Stettler, Office of Licensing, DHS
Patricia Worthington, Foster Care Review Board
Mark Brasher, Director, Office of Recovery Services, ORS

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Sen. Christensen at 2:15 pm.

MOTION:

Rep. Ray moved to pass the minutes for both meetings of January 16.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Urquhart absent.

Debbie Headden explained the two binders. One is for Human Services with Analyst Debbie Headden and the other is for Health with Analyst Russell Frandsen as per a request of one of the Co-Chairs.

1. Division of Child and Family Services Caseload Growth

Analyst Headden explained Issue Brief 09-16 DCFS Additional Caseworkers. The Analyst recommends that the Subcommittee place \$800,000 from the General Fund and \$29,400 from one-time General Fund on the priority list to hire 14 additional caseworkers. The Analyst does not recommend funding the 2 support staff and 2 supervisors at this time since three additional supervisors were approved during the 2007 General Session. The Analyst further recommends that the Legislature authorize the Division of Child and Family Services to purchase seven additional vehicles for FY 2009 if the request for 14 additional caseworkers is funded. Finally, the Analyst recommends that the Legislature adopt the following intent language for FY 2009.

Under Section 63-38-8 of the Utah Code the Legislature intends that any remaining amount of the \$162,123,000 provided in Senate Bill 1, State Agency and Higher Education Base Budget Appropriations (2008 General Session) Item 115, and funding allocated in this item for the Department of Human Services, The Division of Child and Family Services not lapse at the close of FY 2009. It is further the intent of the Legislature that these funds be used for Adoption Assistance and Out of Home Care programs, the purchase of 7 vehicles for the Division of Child and Family Services and the David C. court monitor.

Co-Chair Rep. Newbold assumed the chair.

Questions were asked by Reps. Neuenschwander and Greenwood concerning staff and autos needed by the dept. Sen. Buttars asked about the cause for the growth in numbers. Lisa Michele Church and Duane Betournay explained this by the growth in Meth use among women. Ms. Church addressed Rep. McGee's previous questions about caseload standards and waiver for child support. Previous questions about adoption and employee turnover by Rep. Neuenschwander was explained with comments and a handout. Rep. McGee responded on the waiver issue and Rep. Newbold and Sen. Buttars asked questions concerning this item. Reps. Litvack, Newbold and Neuenschwander questioned the wage issue and the turnover statistics within the other departments and these were discussed. Duane Betournay commented on Rep. Newbold's previous question about the number of caseloads that were new or ongoing in the system. He stated a breakdown of cases in Reps. Newbold and Neuenschwander's zip code areas. He reviewed this Building Block request and discussed his support for the caseload budget. Rep. Neuenschwander asked about numbers on the summary brief and this was addressed.

2. Child and Family Treatment Services

Debbie Headden explained Issue Brief 09-17 Child and Family Treatment Services. The Analyst recommends that \$215,200 from the General Fund be placed on the priority list for child and family treatment services for FY 2009. The Analyst further recommends that \$95,500 be transferred from the Inter-county Adoption program in the Office of Licensing in the Executive Director line item.

Duane Betournay discussed some of the causes of rising costs and the request for the Building Block request. Sen. Buttars commented on meth uses and their extended recovery. Rep. Litvack asked about the length of stay time, number of placements and fiscal impact per person. Jack Green addressed this placement issue. Rep. McGee asked about cost in cases with meth involvement and this was addressed. Rep. Neuenschwander requested another column on the handout to show the Analyst recommendation.

3. West Valley Family Support Center

Analyst Headden explained Issue Brief 09-18 West Valley Support Center. The Analyst does not recommend this request of \$182,300 from the General Fund for FY 2009.

Duane Betournay introduced Bonnie Peters and Sharon Anderson. Ms. Anderson explained the Family Support Center and her support for them. Ms. Peters talked of the need for these centers and gave statistics of the nurseries' use. She strongly recommended a crisis nursery in the west side in the 84119, 84118 and 84120 zip codes as well as the Magna area and illustrated it with a chart presentation. She stated that a private donor has provided a Family Support Center building located on 3600 W. with the funding for a crisis nursery in West Valley City and \$150,000 from WVC for remodeling. She requested that the Committee provide on going operational costs. Rep. Litvack asked when the center would be operational. Sen. Knudsen commented on the need for the crisis centers.

4. Domestic Violence Shelters

Issue Brief 09-19 Domestic Violence Shelters was presented by Mrs. Headden. The Analyst recommends

that \$45,000 from the General Fund be placed on the priority list for the Domestic Violence Link or the highest priority identified by the Division of Child and Family Services and the Utah Domestic Violence Council. It is further the recommendation of the Analyst that the Division of Child and Family Services receive an additional appropriation of \$70,900 from the Domestic Violence Restricted Account for FY 2009 for Domestic Violence services. The Analyst does not recommend the request for operating expenses be placed on the priority list because of the lack of sufficient supporting documentation.

Sen. Buttars stated his support for this recommendation. Duane Betournay stated his support for this item and the reasons for it. Anne Burkholder, YWCA spoke in support of the appropriations request and stated the rising need for shelters. Rep. Newbold asked about the percentage of funding going to these shelters and this was addressed by Mr. Betournay and Ms. Burkholder. Rep. Newbold had further questions and requested a copy of the statistic sheet that Mr. Betournay had. Sen. Romero asked about the funding lost from the Attorney General's Office and this was addressed.

5. Follow-up on 2007 General Session, HB 245, Child Welfare Amendments"

Debbie Headden explained Issue Brief 09-06 Follow-Up on HB 245. It is the recommendation of the Analyst that the Department of Human Services be allowed to reallocate \$54,500 in General Fund from the Inter-country Adoption program to hire one additional staff.

Rep. Greenwood questioned why it took so long to do a background check. Ken Stettler explained the problems of heavy workloads and having to wait for other agencies to return the data. Lisa Michele Church also addressed the delays and their causes. Reps. Newbold and Greenwood had concerns about the delays for the background checks. Sen. Buttars commented on the delays from his experiences.

6. Foster Care Citizen Review Board Caseload

Ms. Headden explained Issue Brief 09-07 Foster Care Citizen Review Board Caseload. It is the recommendation of the Analyst that this funding request of \$84,600 in General Fund for the Foster Care Citizen Review Board to hire 1.5 full time equivalent (FTE) staff not be placed on the priority list at this time.

Patricia Worthington, Dir, FCRB, stated her opposition for the Analyst's recommendation. Sen. Christensen and Rep. Newbold asked questions about the duties of staff.

7. ORS Automated Information System

Ms. Headden explained Issue Brief 09-15 ORS Automated Information System. The Analyst does not make a recommendation since this is an information item to update the Legislature on the progress of this project.

8. Annual Report 2007-UDHS/DCFS

Duane Betournay reported on this program. He referred to a pilot program 62A4A2027 that has been discontinued for 4 years. Rep. Newbold commended on this item. Lisa Michele Church also commented on this report.

Mr. Frandsen stated that the binders for Health are available

MOTION:

Rep. Ray moved to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was passed unanimously, with Rep. Urquhart absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

The minutes were recorded by Joan Tiffany, Secretary.

Sen. Allen Christensen, Co-Chair

Rep. Merlynn Newbold